



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4440

**\*SB0014304440SD0\***

Offered by:

SEN. HANDLEY, 4<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 143

File No. 411

Cal. No. 288

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND."**

1 Strike lines 1 to 55, inclusive, in their entirety and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-293 of the 2006 supplement to the general  
4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
5 (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) [The] There is established a Board of Education and Services for  
7 the Blind that shall serve as the central policy making authority in  
8 providing services to the blind and visually impaired in the state. Prior  
9 to January 4, 2007, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind  
10 shall consist of seven members, six of whom shall be appointed by the  
11 Governor and shall be residents of this state. The Commissioner of  
12 Social Services shall be a member, ex officio. One of the members  
13 appointed by the Governor shall be the parent of a child who receives  
14 services provided by the board, and not less than two of the members  
15 appointed by the Governor shall be blind persons. One of the members

16 appointed by the Governor shall be designated by the Governor as the  
17 chairperson of the board. The Governor may, for reasonable cause,  
18 remove any appointed member and appoint another person to fill the  
19 vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. The board shall meet  
20 annually in the month of September and may meet at any other time  
21 upon the call of its chairperson; and the chairperson shall call a  
22 meeting at the request of two members. Any appointed member who  
23 fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all  
24 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have  
25 resigned. A majority of the members in office shall constitute a  
26 quorum. The terms of the members of the board serving on the  
27 effective date of this section shall expire on January 3, 2007.

28 (b) (1) On and after January 4, 2007, the Board of Education and  
29 Services for the Blind shall consist of nine members, six of whom shall  
30 be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
31 president pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be  
32 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and all shall  
33 be residents of the state. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be a  
34 member, ex officio. One of the members appointed by the Governor  
35 shall be the parent of a child who receives services provided by the  
36 board, and not less than two of the members appointed by the  
37 Governor shall be blind persons. Members appointed by the president  
38 pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
39 Representatives shall not be members of the same political party as the  
40 Governor.

41 (2) Three members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of  
42 four years. Three members appointed by the Governor shall serve a  
43 term of two years. The member appointed by the president pro  
44 tempore of the Senate shall serve a term of two years and the member  
45 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve a  
46 term of two years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a  
47 term of four years, commencing on January fourth of the year of the  
48 appointment.

49     (3) One of the members appointed by the Governor shall be  
50     designated by the Governor as the chairperson of the board. The board  
51     shall meet annually in the month of September and may meet at any  
52     other time upon the call of its chairperson; and the chairperson shall  
53     call a meeting at the request of two members. Any appointed member  
54     who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all  
55     meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have  
56     resigned. A majority of the members in office shall constitute a  
57     quorum. The appointing authority may, for reasonable cause, remove  
58     any appointed member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy  
59     for the unexpired portion of the term. Any vacancy in the Board of  
60     Education and Services for the Blind shall be filled by the appointing  
61     authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

62     (c) Members appointed to the Board of Education and Services for  
63     the Blind shall monitor the activities of the agency in carrying out its  
64     mission to provide educational and rehabilitative services to all state  
65     residents who are legally blind or visually impaired. Members shall  
66     also monitor the activities of the Board of Education and Services for  
67     the Blind regarding the agency's compliance with the benchmarks and  
68     recommendations set by the monitoring council established pursuant  
69     to section 3 of public act 03-217 and offer recommended adjustments to  
70     the benchmarks when deemed necessary. Not later than January 1,  
71     2008, and annually thereafter, the members of the Board of Education  
72     and Services for the Blind shall report in accordance with section 11-4a,  
73     to the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and to the joint  
74     standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
75     matters relating to human services and education on the agency's  
76     compliance with the benchmarks established by said monitoring  
77     council and on the activities of the agency in fulfilling its mission to  
78     provide educational and rehabilitative services to state residents who  
79     are legally blind or visually impaired.

80     [(b)] (d) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall be  
81     within the Department of Social Services for administrative purposes  
82     only."